January 5, 2022

Dear Members of the Andover School Community,

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday break. As you have likely heard, this new year has brought several new changes to the COVID-related procedures which are being implemented by the DOH. I have started, stopped, and rewritten versions of this letter each day thus far this week. In each case, new guidance and information came out late in the day which required clarification and revisions.

It is expected that additional guidance will be forthcoming from both the state and local Departments of Health, and we will share such updates as they become available. Accordingly, I would like to stress that the following information reflects the most recent guidance available as of this writing.

**Isolation (regardless of vaccination status)** - If you tested positive, you may return to school after 5 days if:

* You have isolated for 5 days following the onset of symptoms, or the day your test was collected **and**;
* Following the mandatory isolation period, you are asymptomatic or your symptoms are resolving **and**;
* You are able to tolerate wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days **and**;
* You are not moderately or severely immunocompromised.

**Quarantine (not fully vaccinated)** – If you were exposed to COVID, you may return to school after 5 days if:

* You have quarantined for 5 days from the date of the exposure **and**;
* You are asymptomatic **and**;
* You are able to tolerate wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days.

**Quarantine (fully vaccinated)** – If you were exposed to COVID, no quarantine is required so long as you remain asymptomatic.

Please note that we are taking steps to immediately implement the foregoing. As we work with our medical team to adapt our procedures to support this new framework, subsequent updates may be needed. Additionally, and as noted previously, further guidance is expected from the NYSDOH at some point later this week or the next. Again, we will keep you apprised of any changes.

Stay well,

Derek Schuelein, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Andover CSD